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of his genius, the fact that it was not the genius of dissimilarity, but the more uncommon one of supreme comprehensiveness of his kind. And this word is touchstone to more, since in its other sense as well it was so fully what he was, — whose like, like as he was to others, we shall never look upon again, — our own Holmes, witty, genial, kind.

1895.

PERCIVAL LOWELL.

#### EDWARD JACKSON LOWELL.

EDWARD JACKSON LOWELL was born in Boston on October 18, 1845. His father was Francis Cabot Lowell, one of a family noteworthy among the founders of the cotton-manufacturing industry of this country, and distinguished for acts of public beneficence. His mother was Mary, daughter of Samuel P. Gardner, of Boston. The youngest of five children, and having lost his mother before he was nine years old, he was placed, in accordance with her wish, at an excellent private school in Switzerland. The three years there spent, and the knowledge of the French and German languages there acquired, had doubtless a controlling influence upon the subsequent occupations of his lifetime. After completing his preparation at a private school in Boston, he entered Harvard College, and graduated with the Class of 1867. At college he gained some distinction as a writer of verse, both for the college paper and as occasional poet of society anniversaries, and upon graduation was selected to write the Class Ode. After spending some months in travel in Europe, he was married, on January 14, 1868, to Mary, daughter of Samuel G. Goodrich, whose writings, under the name of Peter Parley, were the delight of children of the last generation.

Mr. Lowell at first turned his attention to business, which he soon abandoned for the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in Boston in 1872. But having been so unfortunate as to lose his wife early in 1874, he thereupon determined to devote himself completely to the care and education of his three young children, a daughter and two sons, and to literary culture in general.

On June 19, 1877, he was married a second time, to Elizabeth, daughter of George Jones, of New York, one of the founders and principal directors of the New York Times, who survives him. Carrying out his educational plans, in 1879 he took his family to Europe, and passed two winters in Dresden and two in Paris, travelling extensively in the summer.

During his residence in Germany he became interested in the history of the German mercenaries employed by Great Britain in this country during our Revolutionary War, and in consequence he undertook extended researches among the archives of some of the smaller German states. The most important of these are now preserved at Marburg, in Hesse-Nassau, where are to be found many reports and journals received by the Landgrave Frederick II. of Hesse-Cassel from his officers during the entire course of the war. Others are to be found in the State library at Cassel, and in that of the Prince of Waldeck, at Arolsen, and a few in other localities. Of many of these documents, containing "original German accounts of every important engagement, and of almost every skirmish, of the Revolutionary War from the year 1776 to the end," he caused transcripts to be made, and was thus enabled to make use of sources of information that had never fallen under the eye of any American writer. The results of these researches were first given to the world in a series of letters to the *New York Times*, in the winter of 1880-81. After his return to this country, in 1884, they were published in a more extended shape in a volume entitled "*The Hessians and the other German Auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War, with Maps and Plans*," New York, 1884. This was a genuine contribution to the history of our country, and it attracted universal interest among our historical students. It was, indeed, a surprise to learn that a force of between fifteen and twenty thousand Germans served for seven years against us, and that more than twenty-nine thousand were brought to this country for that purpose, of whom more than twelve thousand never returned. As but a comparatively small portion of these were killed, we are thus able to account for a goodly contribution to the number of our German fellow citizens. The work was systematically conceived and thoroughly executed, and it was enlivened with anecdotes and adventures drawn from the experience of private individuals, in accordance with the intention of the author "to give an idea of what sort of people the auxiliaries were, and of what impression America and the Americans made upon them." It had a decided success, and as a speedy recognition of its merits the author was chosen a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in November, 1884.

Besides contributing articles to some of the leading magazines, Mr. Lowell's studies were now principally directed to the preparation for Dr. Winsor's "*Narrative and Critical History of America*" of a chapter upon "*The Political Struggles and Relations of the United States with Europe, 1775-1782*," which appeared in 1888. This bears evidence

of extended reading in English and French historical sources, in addition to his German studies. It is principally devoted to narrating the attempts made by the United States during the earlier part of the Revolutionary War to obtain recognition and aid from foreign countries, and to raise the money for carrying on the struggle. Incidentally, the diplomatic situation in Europe, so far as it affected us, is portrayed, and the desperate financial straits to which we were reduced are well described. The result is a succinct and instructive survey of our early foreign relations. Besides embodying the results of his studies of the German auxiliaries, he became so deeply interested in the career of Lafayette that he formed the intention of writing his life. For that purpose, he began to collect materials, but abandoned the design upon learning that a similar work by another was on the eve of publication. He had intended to draw a contrast between the American and French Revolutions, but he changed his plan, and began the composition of what turned out to be his most important literary undertaking.

This was published in 1892 under the title of "The Eve of the French Revolution." It contains the ripe fruit of the studies and reflections of his life; from it we can learn the manly strength that underlay his singularly sweet and winning personality, and on it his reputation will chiefly rest. Whoever wishes to obtain a clear idea of the hidden causes that resulted in that fearful outburst of political passion cannot fail of satisfaction if he will carefully study this small but weighty volume. The author lays no claim to original research and pretends to formulate no novel views, but relies upon the results reached by the best historians and thinkers of France; and the reader will find many popular delusions in regard to the actual situation of that country immediately before the meeting of the States General completely dispelled. "The condition of the people," we are told, "both in Paris and in the provinces was far less bad than it has often been represented." They were not crushed by the oppression of a dissolute and tyrannical aristocracy, as many writers have asserted, nor was the Bastille crowded with captives, so that a political hurricane was needed to clear the moral atmosphere. But, on the other hand, we are made to see clearly what were the inherent vices of that *ancien régime*, which harassed and irritated every class in the community, and in the language of De Tocqueville produced "a condition of society which was detested by every one who knew it." In different chapters and with ample detail the author shows how the army had become discontented, because only nobles were eligible to high rank; how the

magistracy had been for more than a generation engaged in a contest with the crown; how the men of letters without exception had become hostile to the government; how the taxation, though not so absolutely burdensome as has been assumed, was so manifestly unequal as to excite the bitterest indignation at the odious privilege of exemption enjoyed by the nobles and the ecclesiastics; and minor sources of dissatisfaction are brought to light in abundance. The author's summing up is that, "while France was great, prosperous, and growing, and a model to her neighbors, she was deeply discontented. . . . She had become conscious that her government did not correspond to her degree of civilization. . . . The financial situation was not the cause of the Revolution, but its occasion. All the machinery of the state needed to be inspected, repaired, or renewed. The people entered into the task with good will and the warmest interest. But they were entirely without experience. . . . In their ignorance of the working of popular assemblies, they supposed them to be inspired with wisdom and virtue beyond that of the individuals who compose them. . . . They accomplished for France much that was good, they prepared the way for much that was evil."

For many years Mr. Lowell was a very efficient member of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, and by his refined appreciation and extended knowledge of art he was able to bring about a most marked improvement and increase in the art collections of that institution. In the winter of 1893 he again visited Europe, and passed quite a long time in Athens in the congenial companionship of the professors and students of the American School of Classical Studies, to which he had given his services for several years as treasurer. During this time he also procured additional treasures for the art collection of the Athenæum.

He was called home by illness in his family, and not long afterwards developed that mysterious sickness, arising from a tumor in the brain, which resulted in his sudden and regretted death at Cotuit, Mass., on May 11, 1894.

Mr. Lowell was elected a member of this Academy on March 9, 1887. He rendered the writer valuable assistance upon the Library Committee, and contributed to Volume XXVIII. of the Proceedings of the Academy, in May, 1893, a Memoir of Lord Tennyson, the last of his literary productions. Of these a chronological list is appended, so far as known to me.

1880-81. The Hessians. N. Y. Times.

1884. The Hessians; extended to a volume.

- 1887. *Journal of Captain Pausch.* — Introduction.
- 1887. *German MS. Documents.* Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.
- 1887. *Memoir of L. M. Sargent.* Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.
- 1887. *Adventures of a Hessian Recruit.* Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.
- 1887. *Bayeux Tapestry.* Scribner's Magazine.
- 1888. *A Liberal Education.* Atlantic Monthly.
- 1888. *The United States, their Political Struggles and Relations with Europe.* Nar. and Crit. Hist. of America.
- 1889. *Life of Benvenuto Cellini.* Scribner's Magazine.
- 1892. *The Eve of the French Revolution.*
- 1893. *Clothes Historically Considered.* Scribner's Magazine.
- 1893. *Memoir of Lord Tennyson.* Proc. Amer. Acad.
- 1895. HENRY W. HAYNES.

## ROBERT CHARLES WINTHROP.

THE HON. ROBERT CHARLES WINTHROP died in Boston on the 16th of November, 1894, at the age of eighty-five years and six months, having been born on the 12th of May, 1809. He was the son of the Hon. Thomas Lindall and Elizabeth (Temple) Winthrop, and a descendant of Governor John Winthrop, founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Between this illustrious ancestor and himself were interposed five generations. His father, Thomas Lindall Winthrop, was for many years Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, and also President of the Massachusetts Historical Society; he was universally esteemed as a man of courtly manners, social disposition, and stainless character, rendering much more valuable service to the community than many men of greater intellectual prominence. Robert C. Winthrop was educated at the Boston Latin School and at Harvard College, graduating with distinction in the class of 1828. The social position of his parents at once introduced him to the most cultivated circles in Boston, and he was conspicuous throughout his life for the strictest devotion to all social duties. He always took keen interest in the militia of the State, as a member and commander of Company A of the First Regiment M. V. M., otherwise the Boston Light Infantry, or "Tigers," and was afterwards an Aide-de-Camp on the staff of Governor Everett.

Mr. Winthrop was admitted to the bar, and studied for a time in the office of the Hon. Daniel Webster. But his attention was early attracted to politics. At the period of his entering college the so called "era of good feeling," which had culminated in the almost unopposed re-election of President Monroe, had come to a violent end